

The International Partnership for Dogs: Bringing the Dog World Together...

IPFDogs & the Dog Wellness Network were formed in 2014 to bring stakeholders together, foster information sharing and collaboration, and harness our collective strength for the benefit of all dogs worldwide.

IPFDogs' community recognized that complex dog health and welfare issues extend across international borders.

A cornerstone of IPFDogs is supporting the development of collaborative global projects to the benefit of dogs.





Promoting a Balanced “Big Picture” of Health and Well-being

IPFDogs is a unique organization that operates **independently & transparently** to address the breadth of challenges in dog (pedigree & non-pedigree) health & welfare.

Who are we?

We are dog people

- The International Partnership for Dogs (IPFDogs) is *the only* non-profit organization leading a global multi-stakeholder effort to address issues affecting dog health, well-being, & welfare.
- IPFDogs is a truly global organization, including cynological organizations, professional & academic groups, veterinary and health experts, welfare organizations, & corporate/ industry partners. Our Board and Partners can be found at www.ipfdogs.com



What We Do: Information, Collaboration, and Action

Information:

We collect, collate, clarify, & create resources to provide evidence-based information & expert opinion on a broad range of issues affecting dog health, well-being, & welfare.

We share this information (open-access) through our online channels: DogWellNet.com & social media; & provide a framework for collaboration.

Coordination & Collaboration:

IPFDogs is an essential coordinating mechanism bringing stakeholders together, harnessing their strengths, facilitating collaborative efforts.

We encourage, initiate, & facilitate collaboration among our Contributors, Partners, & Sponsors & other stakeholders in the dog world.

Action: IPFDogs develops collaborative projects and partnerships around the world...

Projects & Initiatives

Dogwellnet.com

- Online platform – curated hub of information and resources

International Dog Health Workshops

- Plenary Sessions, breakout sessions for working groups
 - Supply & Demand
 - Breeding for Health and Well-being
 - Global Canine Data Alliance
 - Genetic Diversity



Resources

Harmonization of Genetic Testing for Dogs (HGTD)

- Genetic Test Providers (GTPs) voluntarily provide standardized information on tests, breeds, reporting, QM/QC, etc.

Health Strategies Database for Dogs (HSDD)

- Breed-specific health/behaviour testing requirements established by Health Strategy Providers (HSPs): kennel clubs, breed clubs, veterinary organizations, governments, etc.

Breed Resources

- Breed standards, databases, population data, etc.

Globally Relevant Integrated Health Profiles (GRIHPs)

- “Big picture” of health and welfare for a breed – resources for veterinarians, owners, breeders, caretakers, etc.

Global Canine Data Alliance ("Big Data")

Connecting Health, Genomic, and Clinical Insights for Better Breeding and Research

- International coordination initiative under IPFDogs
 - Connects organisations holding canine health, pedigree, clinical, and genomic data
 - Data are fragmented across systems, countries, and standards
→ difficult to combine for research and breeding decisions
 - Focus: enabling collaboration, rather than building data infrastructure
- Goal: improve use of existing data for research and canine health

Global Canine Data Alliance (GCDA)

Key Stakeholders

- **Academics, Consortia**
 - Genetic & genomic data (WGS, SNP, etc.), some clinical data
- **Insurance companies, Veterinary databases**
 - Anonymized clinical data, morbidity & longevity
- **Kennel Clubs, breed clubs**
 - Pedigrees, health screening data (HD, ED, eye exams, etc.)
- **Non-profits**
 - OFA, CHIC: repositories of phenotypic data
- **Industry (GTP)**
 - Genetic test allele frequency data, connections to all other groups

Academic Research
Genomic data (WGS, SNP array), clinical

Kennel Clubs & Breed Registries
Pedigrees, Health Screening Data

Genetic Test Providers, Industry Research
Allele Frequencies, link to testers/breeders

Non-profit repositories
OFA, CHIC, etc.

Vet Clinical Data Sources, Insurance Company Data
Incidence, Clinical Data, Morbidity/mortality

GCDA
Connect, Align, Enable

Integrated Research Insights
Disease risk understanding
Genetic architecture of traits

Population and Breeding tools
EBVs, Diversity metrics, Risk models

**Connecting
fragmented canine
data into a usable
research ecosystem**

Vision: a connected ecosystem where canine data is:

Discoverable

- datasets can be identified and understood

Interoperable

- comparable across systems and countries

Ethically governed

- used responsibly with consent & stewardship

**Collaboratively
usable**

- supports research and breeding decisions

GCDA

Core Challenges

- Different identifiers (dog ID, microchip, registration)
- Different phenotype definitions and scoring systems
- Different governance and access rules
- Limited cross-dataset comparability

**Result: underuse of valuable
existing data**

GCDA

Questions to Consider



Global Data Mapping & Connectivity

Who has what data?



Data Standardisation and Interoperability

What formats and standards apply?



Governance, Ethics, and Data Policy

What rules govern access?



Research Collaboration and Access

How do users collaborate and obtain access?



Infrastructure and Pilot Projects

Where do we start building?



Education, Transparency, and Outreach

How do we make it understandable and useful?

GCDA

Strategic Goals

- **Global Data Mapping & Registry**
Create a searchable *Canine Data Registry* (on DogWellNet.com) listing available datasets, metadata, and access policies from kennel clubs, researchers, veterinary networks, and industry partners.
- **Standardisation & Interoperability**
Harmonise diagnostic codes, health screening systems, and genomic metadata. Encourage adoption of unique identifiers linking pedigree, clinical, and genomic records.
- **Governance & Ethical Frameworks**
Develop consent templates and GDPR-compliant sharing models inspired by GA4GH (Global Alliance for Genomics and Health) standards.
- **Infrastructure & Technical Integration**
Align with ELIXIR for secure data storage, analysis pipelines, and interoperability tools. Pilot cross-sector data aggregation in selected breeds.
- **Education & Communication**
Provide training on using EBVs, genomic data, and inbreeding metrics; publish lay summaries and best-practice guides for breeders, veterinarians, and researchers.
- **Research Collaboration Enablement**
Facilitate partnerships linking phenotypic data (health, behaviour, reproduction) with genomic datasets to support studies on disease risk, diversity, and selection strategies.

GCDA

Priorities 2026-2027

- Establish GCDA Coordination Framework
- Engage Key Stakeholder Groups
- Discuss Infrastructure & Technical Integration
- Map global canine data sources
- Research Identity priority pilot study opportunities
- Explore interoperability and standards alignment
- Develop shared communication and education resources

First Steps

- ✓ Make contact with ELIXIR Domestic Animals Genome and Phenome Community
 - IPFDogs meeting in Bologna, 30 May – 1 June 2026
 - Introduce ELIXIR & DAGPC to IPFDogs in plenary session
 - Discuss goals and concrete steps in Theme Workshop sessions
 - Establish a roadmap for ongoing collaboration with ELIXIR & DAGPC
 - Plan for shared workshop, bring in cat community

Find out more

Visit: www.ipfdogs.com

Explore: the Dog Wellness Network
at www.dogwellnet.com

We welcome interest from all those who share our desire to enhance dog health, well-being, and welfare worldwide – including prospective Partners & Sponsors. Please contact us at info@ipfdogs.com.




ipfdogs International
Partnership
for Dogs



6th International Dog Health Workshop

All Roads Lead to Dog Health

30 May – 1 June, 2026

Bologna, Italy 

Registration open
until 15.05.2026